



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Finance Directors
District Food Service Directors

FROM: Mellanie B. Jinnette, CFO
Office of Finance

DATE: October 29, 2015

RE: Poverty Definition

The Department of Education, in cooperation with the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) at the Department of Administration, has developed comparative data for the newly developed poverty definition as a result of the implementation of USDA's Community Eligibility Program (CEP).

As you know, if a district or school implements CEP, free/reduced applications can no longer be requested from parents. As a result, a new poverty definition will now consider the following data elements: SNAP, TANF, Foster (all CEP elements) with the addition of Medicaid, Migrant and Homeless. The first four elements, in this list, are being gathered by RFA through agreements with other state agencies (HHS and DSS). Migrant and Homeless data are being gathered through PowerSchool. It is incumbent on your district to ensure that Migrant and Homeless data are as accurate as possible. The new poverty index has been developed for your district using this process.

The attachment reflects a comparison of fiscal year (FY) 2014 data with the old methodology and FY 2015 with the new methodology outlined above. It is our intent to begin using this new poverty index for 45-day adjustments for the Pupils in Poverty add-on weighting for EFA – still at the district level.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.